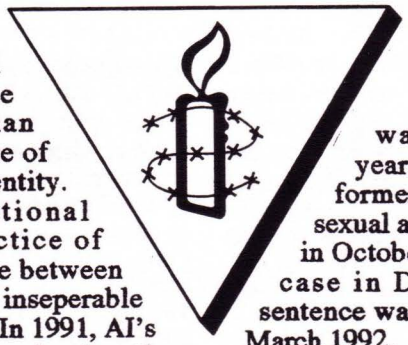
GAY AND LESBIAN
COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEWS LETTER

December 1993

Amnesty International fights for Homosexuality as a basic human right

The following statement, reprinted with permition from the Amnesty International Bulletin - June/July '93 issue, outlines their position and actions on sexual identity as a basic human right.

Amnesty International encourages all of us to write on behalf of the two cases to stop persecution because of sexual identity.



Homosexuality is a fundamental human right. No one should suffer human rights abuses because of his or her sexual identity. Amnesty International considers the practice of sexual acts in private between consenting adults as inseperable from sexual identity. In 1991, AI's highest governing body, the International Council Meeting (ICM), decided that AI would "consider for adoption as prisoners of conscience persons who are imprisoned solely because of their homosexuality, including the practice of homosexual acts in private between consenting adults." This decision came after a four-year review of AI's entire mandate and advanced AI's previous position on homosexuality by recognizing that imprisionment based solely on sexual identity contravenes inherent human rights.

Prior to the 1991 ICM, AI did work on behalf of cases involving homosexuality. At the 1979 ICM, a resolution was adopted affirming that homosexuality was a fundamental human right. Over the years, AI has called for the release of anyone imprisoned for advocating homosexual equality to be a prisoner of conscience. This is consistent with AI's Statute which states that it is the right of every person to hold and express his or her convictions and to be free from discrimination. Regardless of sexual orientation, AI has always worked for fair trials for political prisoners, and opposed torture, illtreatment and the death penalty.

Vladimir Mironov was sentenced to three year's imprisonment in the former USSR for consenting sexual acts between adult males in October 1990. AI took up his case in December 1992. His sentence was quashed on appeal in March 1992.

Irene Petropoulou, editor of the Greek gay and lesbian magazine Amphi, was sentenced in Novemenber 1991 to five months' imprisonment and a fine for "offending public feelings of decency and sexual morals" in an editorial. AI will adopt her as a prisoners of conscience if her appeal hearing fails to overturn her sentence and she is imprisoned.

AI also campaigns against legislation that may result in the prosection and jailing of individuals for advocating homosexual rights or for practicing homosexual acts between consenting adults in private. In February 1992 the organization sent a delegation to the Isle of Man and appealed to the government to change its legislation which made homosexual acts between consenting adults in private illegal. The Isle of Man parliament voted to legalize homosexuality in April 1992.

AI has also written to governments concerning legislation in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuanaia, Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, Costa Rica and Tasmania.

What you can do!

Please write on behalf of these two cases. Your letters can help ensure no one will be persecuted because of her or his sexual identity.

Renildo Jose dos Santos of Brazil

a homosexual local councillor from the Municipality of Coqueiro Seco, Alagoas state in northeast Brazil, was abducted and killed on March 14, 1993.

Three heavily armed men, later identified as members of the military police, kidnapped Renildo Jose dos Santos from his home on the evening of March 14. His head was found the following day. Two days later, Renildo Jose dos Santos' headless body discovered, bearing marks of torture.

Renildo Jose dos Santos had repeatedly denounced death threats which he had received since 1989, allegedly from the local mayor and the mayor's father, also a local political leader. In November 1991, he was shot and wounded, allegedly by a local police officer. Renildo Jose dos Santos attributed the threats and the attempt against his life to political differences he had with the mayor and his homosexuality, which he had publicly acknowledged. No steps

Continued inside on page 2

Holiday Greetings!

As I look out my window from City Hall, the Christmas lights are glowing on the trees at 2 in the afternoon!

It is lovely to have those points of light in the gloom. It might be easy to be glum as the days get shorter and colder, and the work days seem to fly away before we accomplish half of what we had hoped. But those gay little lights remind me of the 'prettier' things in my life.

The continued existence of the Centre in its wonderful space is one of the things I'm grateful for because I know that the many people have found the information, support, library books and friendship they needed. I'm particularly pleased that the pink Triangle Youth's phone line has been operating, too. More and more people in our community are using the centre as a hub of activity - and what activity there is!

Phair Comment

by Councillor Micheal Phair

Now, all we need is a few more "Centre Renters" to keep the bills paid...

I'm also happy to have a job in these days of cutbacks and uncertainty. It's a real privilege to serve the people of Ward 4. The variety of work is amazing - board meetings, community action sessions, helping individual people cut through the red tape, complaints about garbage, noisy traffic and snowy sidewalks, trying to shut down drug houses, and deal with liquor stores, looking for people to help on committees and in my own office, and a million phone calls and messages. The biggest challenge of my work is to try respond to people in a timely and helpful way. But keep those calls and letters coming!

We're looking right now for people who live in the area of McKay Avenue School (103 - 106 Streets, from Jasper Avenue south to the river) who are interested in helping with the Downtown Redevelopment Plan. It could be a little work or a lot, depending on your time, but I need to get the names by December 17 so please call me immediately if you're interested.

The best thing in my life is all the wonderful people who make up our community. Each of you gives so much to our growing and changing movement that I am certain that this is OUR decade, the "LesBiGay Nineties" Here's wishing every one of you very happy holidays and a safe, healthy and joyful 1994!

"...don we now our..."

What you can do continued from Page 1

were ever taken to ensure his safety. In a statement to a newspaper shortly before his death, Renildo Jose dos Santos said that he was frightened and desperate and that he feared a new attempt on his life.

The mayor, his father and three military police officers were detained and charged with the abduction and killing of Renildo Jose dos Santos. The accused were held in preventive detention for five days but are now free awaiting trial.

Please write to the Alagoas state authorities urging that the case of the murder of Renildo Jose dos Santos be bought to trial as soon as possible and that those responsible for this killing be brought to justice.

Write to:
State Governor of Alagoas
His Excellency Geraldo Bulhoes
Palacio Marechal Floriano s/n
47.000 Maceio - AL
Brazil

His Excellency
Paulo Pires do Rino
Ambassador
Embassy of the federative republic of Brazil
450 Wilbrod Street
Ottawa, Ont.
K1N 6M8
Fax (613) 237-6144

The Salutation on the letters should read: Your Excellency.

Tasmanian Legislation in Australia

In Australia's state of Tasmania, the Criminal Code criminalizes all homosexual acts between consenting adults in private.

Section 122 of the Tasmanian Criminal Code Act 1924 (amended in 1987) states that:" Any person who (a)Has sexual intercourse with any person against the order of nature; (c) consents to a male person having sexual intercourse with him or her against the course of nature, is guilty of a crime." The Act goes on to state in Section 123 that "any male person who, whether in public or private, commits any indecent assault upon, or other act of gross indecency with, another male person, or procures another male person to commit any act of gross indecency with himself or with any other male person, is guilty of a crime" and could be charged with "indecent practice between male persons."

While no one is currently imprisoned under this law, it clearly allows for the prosecution of consenting adults who engage in homosexual acts in private. Homosexuals imprisoned under this law would be considered by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. It was last used in 1977 when several people where charged for "indecent practice between male persons."

Under the constitution of Australia, power over the enforcement and enactment of criminal law resides with the individual states. Despite recommendations from various sources, Tasmania has not decriminalized male homosexual acts. Male homosexual acts between consenting adults in private have been decriminalized in all other Australian states.

Please write courteous letters urging the Tasmanian State government to repeal Sections 122 (a and c) and 123 to ensure that future legislation governing sexual offences in the state of Tasmania will not permit the imprisonment of people for consensual homosexual acts in private.

Write to:
The Attorney General
9th Floor, Executive Building
15 Murray Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia

Salutation on the letters should read: Dear Attorney General

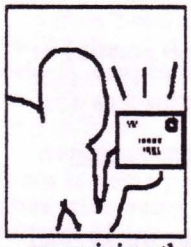
For more information on Amnesty International in Edmonton call 462-1871.

Women's Coming Out Group

In the fall of '93 twelve women came to the Monday Night Coming Out group. Last year, twenty-four used the group to explore women's sexuality issues. Twelve participants sparked the formation of the Lesbian Mother's Network which met for the first time Nov. 27. Two other participants have applied for peer counsellor training starting February 4. The next Women's Coming Out Group begins January 10 and runs Monday's through February 14. Call GLCCE at 488-3234 to become part of this process.

Open House and Centre Renter Mail-out

Thank-you to all the volunteers who helped with the greeting card mail-out that announced GLCCE's Dec. 11 open house. Thanks Tim S. for creating the card, Paul DL. for organizing the Centre Renter flyer. Thanks to Anne E. for organizing the mailing and Karen H., Mary K., Nancy L., and Joe for addressing and stuffing.



Gay Games IV

Registration books for Unity '94 Gay Games and Cultural Festival are available at the Gay and Lesbian Community through Team Edmonton. Come in when and pick up yours!

Planning to go to the Games to participate or to to be a spectator? Call Ladi at 467-0733 about Team Edmonton's affordable 10 day package. Four people to a room and air fare is only $848 per person. Double occupancy is $979 per person. You must BOOK NOW!

Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations

If you are attending the Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations in New York, Sunday June 26 (the day after the Games) pick up a Stonewall Hospitality request form to write for information and assistance about the March and about New York. These forms are available at GLCCE.

Festive Balls

GLCCE is selling gold and silver tree ornaments at Boystown Cafe for a minimum of $2 each. These lovely balls created by our own lovely Ken are complete with pink and black triangle will make your Christmas bright!

Library Notes

We need at least six book-lovers to volunteer one weekend in January to finish cataloguing our ever increasing library. Leave a message for Pat at GLCCE 488-3234 if you are interested.

Recent additions to the library:

Amateur City and Murder at the Nightwood Bar - Katherine V. Forrest.
The Love of a Good Women - Isabel Miller
Coming Out: An Act of Love (new Copy) - Rob Eichberg Phd.
Before Stonewall - Andrea Weiss and Greta Schiller
Cherished Love and To Love Again - Evelyn Kennedy

Counsellor or Host Training

Sign up now for the new session of training for GLCCE counsellor or host. The session begins in February but it is already almost full! Applicants will be interviewed prior to starting the course. Call 488-3234 to apply.

Four people completed the recent counsellor training course along with some board members. Many thanks to Keith T. who ran the training and the efforts of Chris T. and Anne E. interviewed applicants and got the ball rolling.

Greater Pride Pages

The Greater Edmonton Pride Pages is a listing of businesses, individuals and organizations within and supportive of the Lesbigay community. This soon to be published directory is also a fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. Call Rick 474-1094, Paul 471-4576 or Carol 477-0991 for information and ad rates.

Pink Triangle Youth Group

PTYE meets Saturday evenings from 8 - 10 p.m. at the Centre. The group, for youth 16-18, is still in search of a female facilitator. Leave a message for Brent at GLCCE 488-3234 if you are interested.

Gay and Lesbian Dart Club

It was a cold evening, but the sky was clear and the stars were shining. it was december 2, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. and something was in the air. Actually, darts were flying in the air! The dart club met at GLCCE and trotted of to a local dart pub. There were six brave and courageous men and women who threw caution and their dignity to the wind by playing darts. It got tense and competitive for a few short minutes until we realized how easy it was to hit the wall - and not the board. Things really started to loosen up when (we won't mention names D.S.) one of the men, showed how one can gracefully throw the dart to hit the floor. All in all, it was a great time (especially when you win!!)

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 6, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. at GLCCE. Everyone is welcome. Please call Snake at 428-8847 or Ray at 421-4427 for information.

Community Calendar

Thursday 16

"Times Square Angel" Darrin Hagen in a hard-boiled Christmas Fantasy runs through Dec. 19 at 10551 Whyte Ave. $12 Table of 6-$60 Call 451-7686 to reserve. Gaywire Radio 6-7 p.m.CJSR fm 88.5

Friday 17

"Best of the Edge" at Catalyst Theatre 10943 - 84 Ave. Best of Catalyst workshops featuring two skits from the wildly successful Loud N' Queer Cabaret. 431-1750.

"Times Square Angel" Darrin Hagen in a hard-boiled Christmas Fantasy runs through Dec. 19 at 10551 Whyte Ave. $12 Table of 6-$60 Call 451-7686 to reserve.

Angel at the ReBar through Dec. 19

Saturday 18

Womonspace Dance, womyn only at Bonnie Doon Hall 9240 93 St. 8 - 1 a.m.

The Roost Rumpusroom/The Underground Pure Love Sexperience Party upstairs at 11 p.m. Wear Ur Wildest. 10345 - 104 St.

Boots and Saddle resents Country Christmas Drag Show 10242 - 106 St 423-5014.

"Times Square Angel" Darrin Hagen in a hard-boiled Christmas Fantasy runs through Dec. 19 at 10551 Whyte Ave. $12 Table of 6-$60 Call 451-7686 to reserve.

Sunday 19

"Times Square Angel" Darrin Hagen in a hard-boiled Christmas Fantasy last night at 10551 Whyte Ave. $12 Table of 6-$60 Call 451-7686 to reserve.

Boots and Saddle present Cut-a-thon Fundraisers featuring Edmonton's top hairdressers! 10242 - 106 St 423-5014.

Metropolitan Community Church service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Vocal Minority practice 2- 4 p.m. at Alberta Arts Centre, 2nd Floor, 10309 107 St.

Monday 20

The Roost Rumpusroom/The Underground Karaoke AIDS benefit. 10345 - 104 St.

Wednesday 22

The Roost Rumpusroom/The Underground talent show finals $500 prize. 10345 - 104 St.

Thursday 23

Gaywire Radio 6-7 p.m.CJSR fm 88.5

Friday 24

Metropolitan Community Church Midnight Mass 10086 MacDonald Drive.

The Roost Rumpusroom is open Christmas eve at 8 p.m. 10345 - 104 St.

Saturday 25

Boots and Saddle Christmas Meal 10242 - 106 St 423-5014.

The Roost Rumpusroom is open Christmas Day at 8 p.m.. 10345 - 104 St.

Sunday 26

The Roost Rumpus Room/The Underground Boxing Day Bash, 2 floors open at 8 p.m. Open Stage show. 10345 - 104 St.

Metropolitan Community Church service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Monday 27

The Roost Rumpusroom Karaoke 8 - 12 a.m. 10345 - 104 St.

Wednesday 29

The Roost Rumpusroom open Stage Show 11 p.m. 10345 - 104 St.

Thursday 30

Gaywire Radio 6-7 p.m.CJSR fm 88.5

Friday 31

The Roost Rumpus Room/The Underground NEW YEARS 1994 Party. Doors at 7 p.m., Cover 1/2 price 'till 10 p.m. Country downstairs, Marathon DJ upstairs at 9 p.m., Food and Toys! 10345 - 104 St.

Boots and Saddle NEW YEAR EVE Party, buffet, champagne and party Favorites. Advance tickets 10242 - 106 St. Call 423-5014.

JANUARY Saturday 1

Happy New Year!

The Roost Rumpus Room/The Underground open at 8 p.m. 10345 - 104 St.

Sunday 2

Womonspace Newsletter Meeting, Boystown 10116 - 124 St. at noon.

Metropolitan Community Church service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Vocal Minority practice 2- 4 p.m. at Alberta Arts Centre, 2nd Floor, 10309 107 St.

Thursday 6

Gay and Lesbian Dart Club meeting at GLCCE 7:30 p.m. #104 11745 Jasper Ave. Call Snake 428-8847 or Ray 421-4427.

Gaywire Radio 6-7 p.m.CJSR fm 88.5

Friday 7

Womonspace Drop-in, 9930-106 St. 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 9

Metropolitan Community Church service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Vocal Minority practice 2- 4 p.m. at Alberta Arts Centre, 2nd Floor, 10309 107 St.

Monday 10

A New Women's Coming Out group begins tonight and runs Monday's through Feb. 14 Call Anne at GLCCE 488-3234.

T.U.G. the Umbrella Group meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Sunflower Cafe.

Wednesday 12

Police Liaison Meeting, 7 p.m. at GLCCE. Call Ken Chalmers 488-5469 or Sgt. Joe Rodgers 421-3397.

Integrity, Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and their friends regular monthly meeting. 454-3482

Bi the Way
a column by Candice Hood

I went to the Alberta Summit in Red Deer on October 23, the Lesbian and Gay political event of the year, and I met a guy. A man. A really gentle, sweet, beautiful man.

I was shocked, blown away, knocked off my feet! (I was a bit surprised.)

We met at a workshop and later went with a group for supper. And then we all went t o the dance (insert daunting suspense music.) I was having a lot of fun dancing with this man and we were progressively more physical until he kissed me. Wow! (Insert cheering fans)

The debate started in my head - - No! Wait! I'm at a lesbian and gay event – I'm not supposed to be kissing a man, (Oh yeah, I kissed him back).-- I was aware that some lesbians and gays justifiably feel oppressed by the open affection demonstrated by a man and a woman, but I'm bisexual and part of the queer community!

I was getting glares from some women from Calgary while waves of internalized bi-phobia washed over me.

I didn't really ignore all those things but I refused to let them stop me from being honest with myself and recognizing that I was attracted to this man. It was very difficult!

As a bisexual women, I recognize there is some privilege that inherently goes with being involved with a man, because of assumptions that heterosexual people make. But I have the choices and responsibility as well.

Do I let people assume that I'm heterosexual when they see me with a man?

Do I take advantage of legal privileges accorded to heterosexuals, such as marriage?

Do I take a male date to certain parties because he's male and that would be easier?

Do I let gays and lesbians assume I'm lesbian?

Do I take a woman to a certain parties because then I wouldn't have to deal with those "traitor "stares.

Do I allow myself to be physical with a man when I'm in a queer environment?

These are some of the question we bisexuals face. What do you think?

You can respond to Candice by writing:
Bi the Way
GLCCE
Box 1852
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2P2

Edmonton network for bisexuals

Bi-lines, a group for bisexual men and women is forming in Edmonton.

If you would like to be contacted about the group, please call the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton at 488-3234 and leave a message for Bi-lines.

East asian gays and lesbians

Are you interested in exploring your Asian identity with your sexuality? As East Asian gays and lesbians, we share a lot of common cultural experiences and issues. recently a number of east asians have expressed an interest in meeting each other to celebrate our Culture with our sexuality.

If you are interested in discreet and informal gatherings to discuss, socialize, network and dine out

we would like to hear from you. For more information, call and leave a mesge with Ray at 421-4427.

Nominees for Pride Awards

The Pride '94 Committee is asking Edmonton's LesBiGay community organizations to nominate a man and women to recieve the Phair or Irwin Awards during Pride Week.

The nominees should be "out" individuals from the organization which nominates them. Nomination papers should consist of a short biography, a record of community service and reasons why they deserve this award.

These community service awards given by the Pride committee were presented for the first time on the opening night of the GLCCE film festival during Pride '93. The awards are named after Michael Phair and Maureen Irwin, the first winners.

Female Misbehaviour

The film Female Misbehaviour will be shown at Metro Cinema January 27 - 29 at 8 p.m. Metro Cinema is in the NFB office at Canada Place 9700 Jasper Ave. Call 425-9212 for more information.

Gay Connections
430-9492

We are a personal introductory service strictly for
Gays, lesbians and bisexuals.
This is an affordable alternative way to meet people that share your interests and life goals.
Call today and speak CONFIDENTIALLY to one of our representatives.
430-9492

"Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained."

GLCCE Wish list
We fanatsize about fax machines!
We covet copiers!
Our lack of a VCR vexes us!
If you are upgrading your home or office equipment and would like to donate older items to your community centre, give us a call.
We are not a junk store but there are many things we need.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Newsletter is compiled and distributed by G.L.C.C.E. 10 times each year. We accept announcements, press releases and information relevant to the LesBiGay community. We will edit for space and content.
Next deadline is Jan. 10.
If yoy have an annuncement or article call Pat at 488-8378 or Ray at 421-4427.
Articles may also be submitted at GLCCE 7 - 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. and Wednesday 1- 4 p.m.
#104 11745 Jasper Avenue

Great Gift Ideas!

for men and women
T-Shirts

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Calendars

a wide variety of
Accessories

#201, 10120 -118 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

482-7480

Executive Express Video

Care To Join Us?

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
#104 11745 Jasper Avenue
Write: PO Box 1852
Edmonton AB
T5K 2P2
488-3234 InfoLine 988-4018

GLCCE Offers:
- **Drop in and peer counselling**
- **Library facilities**
- **boardroom available for bookings**
- **an information bulletin board**
- **referrals for LesBiGay positive lawyers, doctors, counsellors etc.**
- **information on LesBiGay organizations in Edmonton.**

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ **Phone number** _____

☐ **$25 per year** ☐ **$40 family**

☐ **$15 fixed income** ☐ **$20 fixed income family**

☐ Please contact me as a volunteer!